

(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 330 729 (13) A

(43) Date of A Publication 28.04.1999

(21) Application No 9722511.4

(22) Date of Filing 27.10.1997

(71) Applicant(s)
Motorola Limited
(Incorporated in the United Kingdom)
Jays Close, Viables Ind Est, BASINGSTOKE,
Hampshire, RG22 4PD, United Kingdom

(72) Inventor(s)
Rene Pihl Jepsen
Rorle Julian Turnball O'Neill
Reza Karimi
Behzad Mohebbi

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service
Motorola Limited
European Intellectual Property Operation, Midpoint,
Alencon Link, BASINGSTOKE, Hampshire, RG21 7PL,
United Kingdom

(51) INT CL⁶
H04Q 7/20

(52) UK CL (Edition Q)
H4L LDLS L1H10

(56) Documents Cited
US 4967407 A

(58) Field of Search
UK CL (Edition P) H4L LDLS LDLX , H4M MD ME , H4P
PF
INT CL⁶ H04B 7/26 , H04J 4/00 , H04L 5/26 , H04Q
7/20 7/22
ONLINE: WPI

(54) Abstract Title
Communications System Using Different Transmission Schemes for Uplink and Downlink

(57) A communication system (100) including at least one central (101) and a number of remote units (103) is provided which utilise a shared spectrum (203) for simultaneous communication in the uplink and downlink direction. According to the invention different transmission schemes are used in the two directions for reducing the cross interference between remote units (103) uplinking and remote units (103) downlinking in the shared spectrum. The different transmission schemes are characterised by one (CDMA) having the signal energy spread, in preferably both the time and frequency domain whereas the other (TDMA, DFDM) transmission scheme is characterised by having signal energy concentrated in both the frequency and time domain.

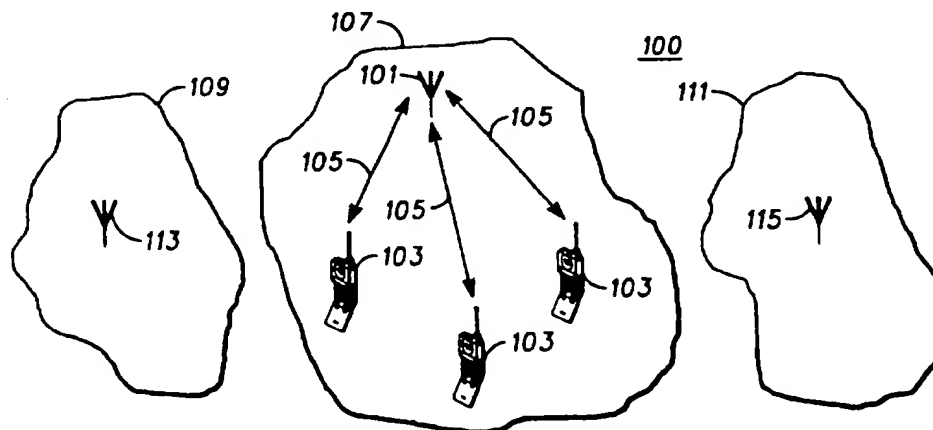


FIG. 1

At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

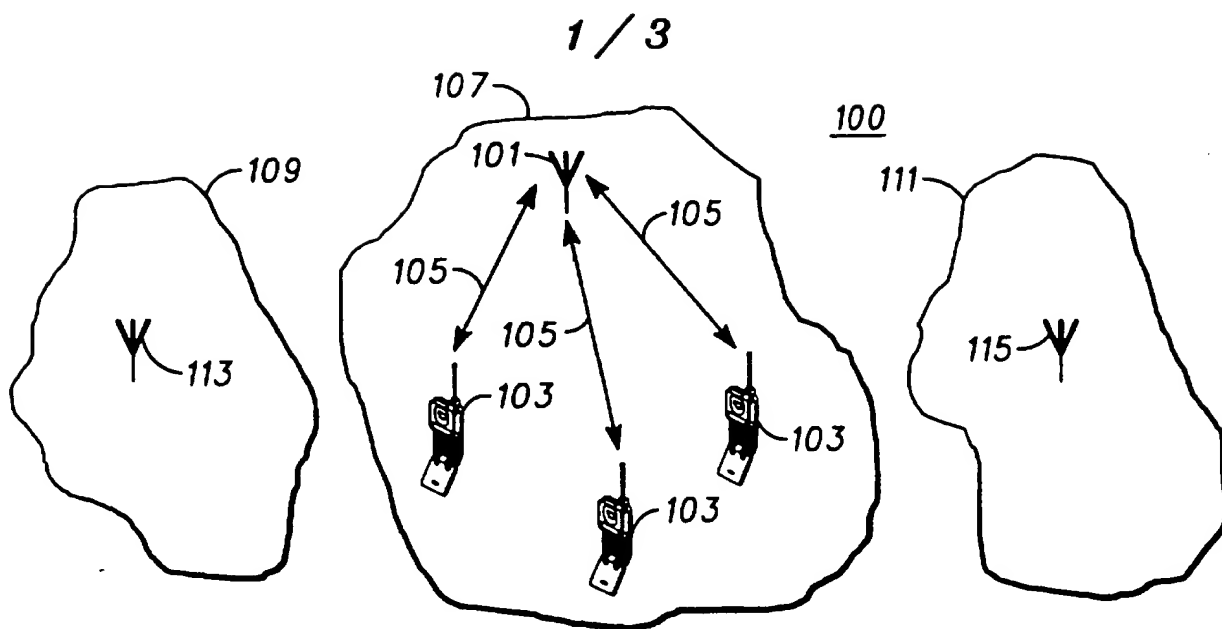


FIG. 1

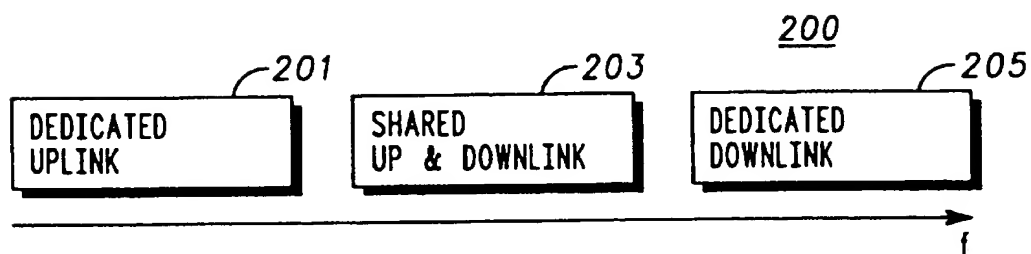


FIG. 2

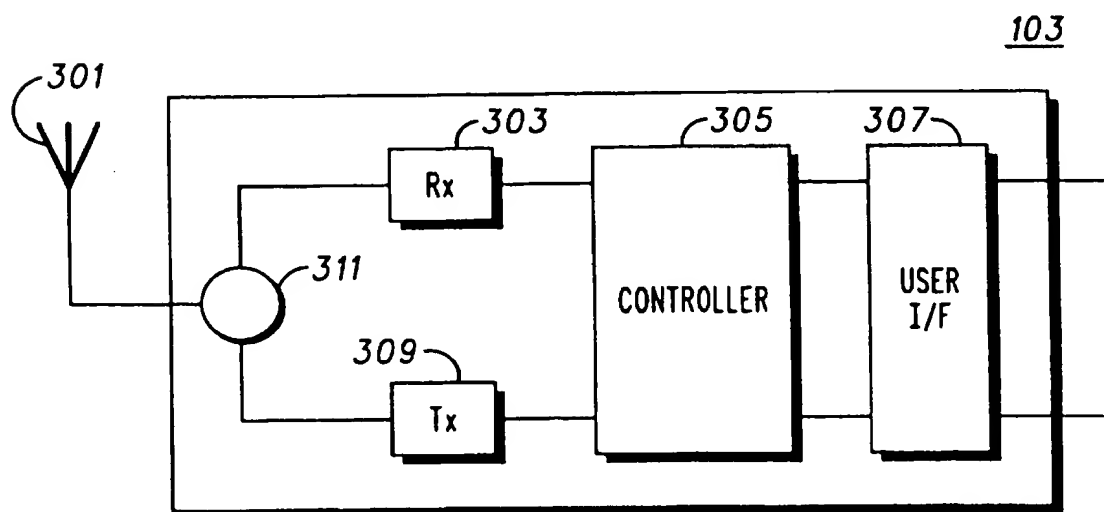


FIG. 3

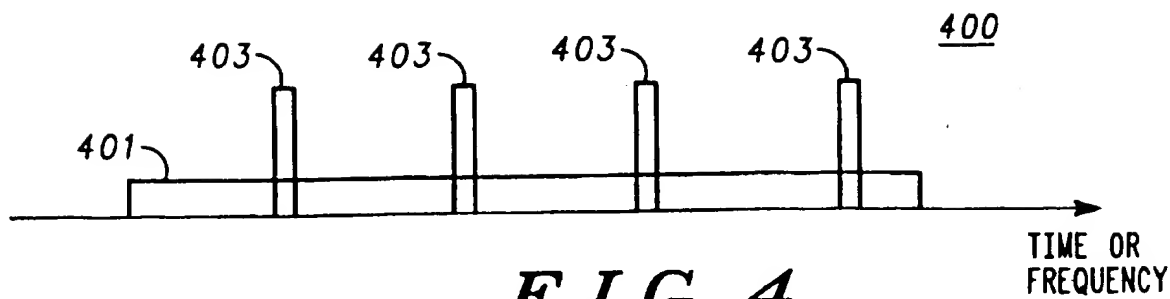


FIG. 4

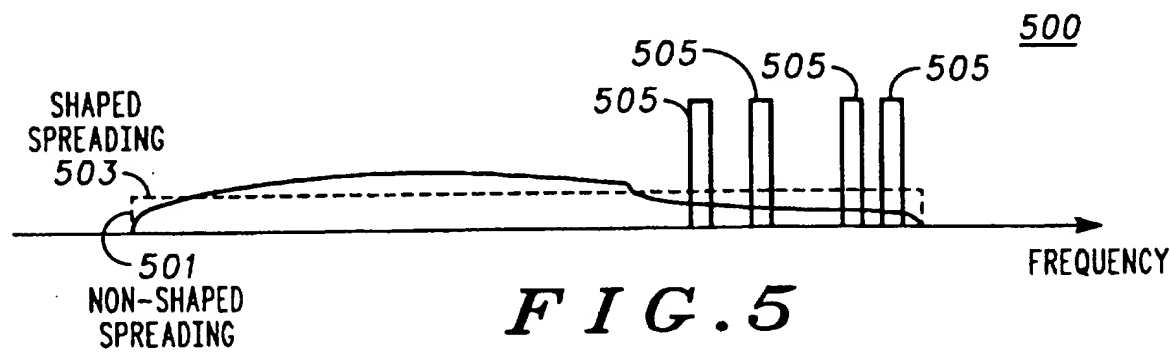


FIG. 5

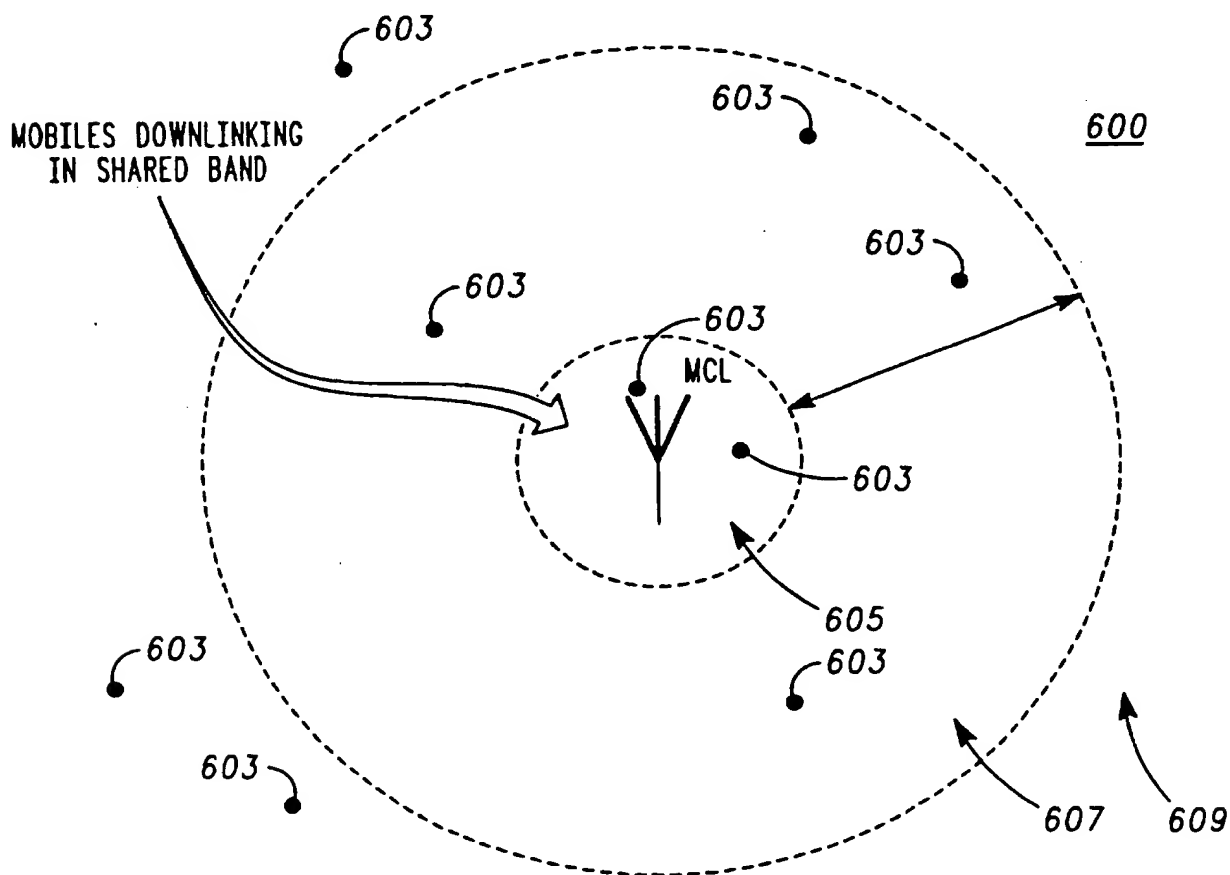
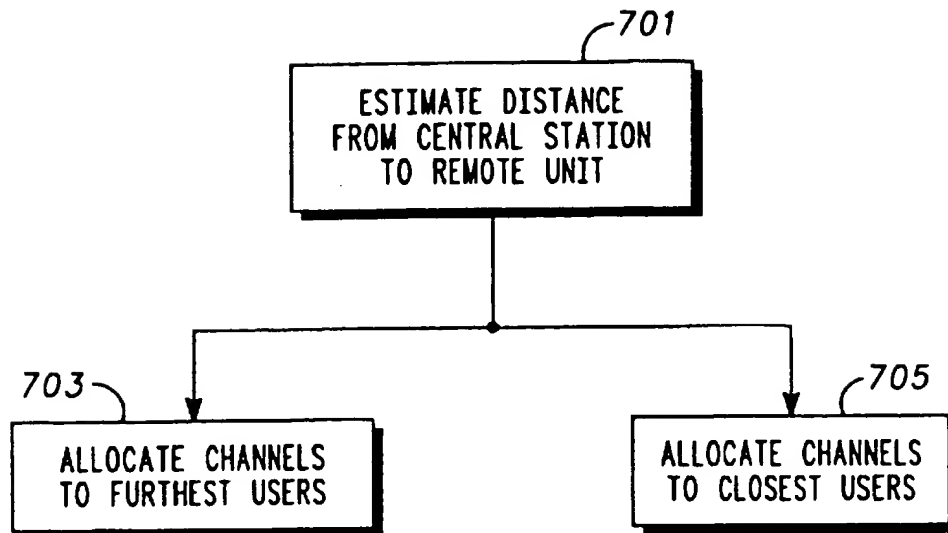


FIG. 6

700*FIG. 7*

COMMUNICATION SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR COMMUNICATION

Field of the Invention

5

This invention relates to a communication system comprising at least one central and a number of remote units and employing a shared frequency band.

10

Background of the Invention

Communication systems including at least one central and a number of remote units typically use separate portions of the frequency spectrum or frequency bands for the uplink (remote units transmitting to the central station) and the downlink (the central station transmitting to the remote units). A typical example of such a system is the Global System for Mobile telecommunication (GSM) where the uplink and downlink are transmitted in different frequency bands 45 MHz apart.

20

A major disadvantage with separate frequency bands is the inflexibility caused by the need for a fixed allocation of total spectrum used for the uplink and for the downlink.

In many systems the total traffic distribution between the uplink and downlink vary significantly with time. A fixed allocation of spectrum for each direction therefore requires dimensioning for worst case scenarios in the up- and downlink independently whereas the total traffic may be significantly less than the sum of the individual worst case situations. A significant improvement can be obtained if the spectrum can be dynamically allocated between the uplink and downlink.

30

As an example it has been identified that the variation in time of the traffic distribution between the uplink and downlink in the future Universal Mobile Telecommunication System (UMTS) will be very large. As a result it has been specified that it will be advantageous if the UMTS air interface will be able to share spectrum dynamically between uplink and downlink.

35

Separation of different radio signals in communication systems is achieved by separation in either time, frequency, code or a combination

thereof. However, when sharing the same spectrum between uplink and downlink the separation becomes increasingly difficult as the power variation between desired and undesired signals can be extremely large. A typical example is the situation where a remote unit is located on the edge of the coverage area and therefore receives a very weak signal from the central station. At the same time a nearby remote unit may transmit to the central station using high power as it is also close to the edge of the coverage area thereby causing a very strong interfering signal.

If the signals are separated in time, such as in a Time Division Duplex (TDD) scheme the interference can be constrained to time intervals not used by the current remote unit and separation can therefore be very effective. However, the requirement for guard time between transmission and reception makes a time division scheme impractical for anything beyond very small cells (typically less than one kilometre). Division in frequency requires a very large attenuation of the unwanted signal due to the high power variation between the signals and this imposes very strict requirements on the filters resulting in large and expensive filters. Similarly, division in code will also require a very large attenuation of the unwanted signal due to the high power variation and this will result in the need for very long codes which complicates the receiver design significantly.

A new invention is therefore desired for facilitating the sharing of spectrum between the uplink and downlink.

Summary of the Invention

According to the present invention, a communication system including a first central station, a plurality of remote units, and a frequency spectrum for providing communication services to the plurality of remote units is provided. The communication system comprises means for transmitting between the first central station and a first remote unit in a first portion of the frequency spectrum in a first direction using a first transmission scheme, and means for transmitting simultaneously between the first

central station and a second remote unit in the first portion of the frequency spectrum in a second direction using a second transmission scheme.

5 According to a second aspect of the invention a method for communication in a communication system including a first central station, a plurality of remote units, and a frequency spectrum for providing communication services to the plurality of remote units is provided. The method comprises the steps of transmitting between the first central station and a first remote
10 unit in a first portion of the frequency spectrum in a first direction using a first transmission scheme; and transmitting simultaneously between the first central station and a second remote unit in the first portion of the frequency spectrum in a second direction using a second transmission scheme.

15 The different transmission schemes of both aspects of the invention are preferably characterised by one having the signal energy spread in preferably both the time and frequency domain whereas the other transmission scheme having signal energy concentrated in preferably both
20 the frequency and time domain.

According to one aspect of the invention the spread energy signals can be spread un-evenly thereby concentrating signal energy in frequencies with the minimum cross-directional interference. According to another aspect
25 of the invention, remote units may be allocated spectrum so that units uplinking and downlinking in the shared portion of the frequency spectrum are separated geographically thereby increasing the minimum coupling loss between the units and thus minimising the interference.

30

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is an illustration of a typical communication system to which this invention may apply.

35

FIG. 2 is an illustration of frequency band allocation for uplink and downlink traffic in a preferred embodiment.

FIG. 3 is an illustration of a preferred embodiment of a remote unit.

5

FIG. 4 is an illustration of an example of signal energies spread or concentrated according to the invention.

10

FIG. 5 is an illustration of an uneven spreading of signal energy applied to the spread energy signal.

FIG. 6 is an illustration of a preferred allocation of channels in the shared frequency band to remote units.

15

FIG. 7 is an illustration of a process flowchart of a preferred method of allocating channels to users.

Detailed Description of a Preferred Embodiment

20

According to the present invention, a communication system 100 allowing sharing of spectrum between the uplink and downlink is provided, the system comprising at least one central station and a plurality of remote units. FIG. 1 illustrates such a system where a central station 101
25 communicates with a number of remote units 103 over radio channels 105. Specifically, the communication system can be a cellular system where the central station covers users within a certain geographical area 107 whereas other geographical areas 109,111 are covered by other central stations 113,115. An example of such a system is the UMTS cellular system
30 undergoing standardisation in the European Telecommunications Standards Institute.

According to the present invention at least a portion of the spectrum is allocated for simultaneous use in the uplink and downlink direction. A
35 preferred spectrum allocation 200 is shown in FIG. 2. A portion of the spectrum is allocated for uplink 201, another for downlink 205 and a third

is shared between up- and downlink 203. It is preferred that call setup is performed using the separate up- and downlink portions of the frequency spectrum 201,205 as the interference in these bands are expected to be less than in the shared spectrum 203. The interference in the shared spectrum
5 can be very severe in some situations for example if a remote unit using this band for uplink is very close to a remote unit using the same spectrum for downlink.

The principle of the current invention is to use a hybrid air interface at
10 least in the shared portion of the frequency spectrum by employing different transmission schemes which cause the least cross-interference between the uplink and downlink. The preferred system will spread the signal energy in one direction as much as possible while concentrating the signal energy as much as possible in the other direction. The spreading of
15 energy in one direction will preferably be in both the time and frequency domain and similarly the concentration of signal energy in the other direction will also preferably be in both the time and frequency domain.

A preferred implementation of a remote unit 103 is illustrated in FIG. 3.
20 The remote unit 103 comprises an antenna 301 connected to a duplexer 311 which again is connected to a receiver unit 303 and transmitter unit 309. The receiver and transmitter units 303,309 are connected to a controller 305 which is connected to a user interface 307. The remote unit 103 thus provides means for transmission and reception of user data under the
25 control of a controller 305. The transmitting unit 309 is able to transmit using a different transmission scheme than the receiving unit 303. For example according to the invention the transmitting unit 309 can employ a time continuous broadband signal whereas the receiving unit 303 can employ a time division narrow band signal. In addition the transmitter
30 unit 309 and receiver unit 303 may be able to use a plurality of transmission schemes and operate in a plurality of different frequency bands. The central station 101 is similar to the remote units 103 but the transmission schemes available will typically be reciprocal to the remote units 103, so that the transmission schemes available to the receiving unit 303 in the
35 remote unit 103 will be available in the transmitting unit 309 of the central station 101 and vice versa. Which transmission scheme to use is

determined in the controller 305 in the remote units 103, the central station 101 or may be distributed throughout the system. The details of receiver and transmitter design for various transmission schemes are well known in the art, and the skilled person may use any known method of
5 transmitter or receiver design without detracting from the present invention.

A preferred energy distribution 400 is illustrated in FIG. 4 where a spread energy signal 401 and concentrated energy signals 403 are shown.

10

When considering the frequency domain the spread energy signal 401 corresponds to a broadband signal where the radio signal occupies a relatively high bandwidth but has relatively low spectral energy density. Preferably the signal is spread using a spread spectrum technique as is
15 well known in the art. Other alternatives for spreading the signal include known techniques such as frequency hopping or increasing the bandwidth of the signal by introducing redundant data. An example of the latter is the use of Forward Error Correcting (FEC) codes which allows transmission at lower spectral power density and increased bandwidth. The
20 concentrated energy signals corresponds to standard narrowband signals where no or limited frequency spreading is applied.

When considering the time domain, the spread energy signal corresponds to a signal of long duration in comparison to the transmissions of the
25 concentrated energy signal, preferably it is a continuous signal. The concentrated energy signal corresponds to a signal which performs the transmissions in short bursts rather than continuous transmissions. These signals are for example used in TDMA communication systems. The spread energy signal is thus characterised by having a relatively low
30 variation in transmitted power whereas the concentrated energy signal will have high peak power during transmission bursts.

When receiving the signals the high disparity between the two transmission formats will provide significant benefits in terms of
35 reduction of the interference level, the possibility of using interference

reduction receiver techniques and the possibility of using techniques minimising the impact of the given interference.

When receiving the concentrated energy signal such as a non-frequency spread TDMA signal, the interference energy from a possible nearby strong interferer will be spread in both time and frequency. The interference energy contained in the relevant time-slot and narrow frequency channel is therefore minimised. As an example, if a GSM speech call is considered a 200 kHz channel is used. Assuming an interfering signal is spread to 5 MHz (as is considered for UMTS), the interference power of this signal in the narrowband GSM channel will be reduced by 25 times i.e. by 14 dB. The reduction of interference power will substantially decrease the dynamic range requirement of the receiver. In addition the GSM TDMA signal has a duty cycle of 1/8 and the total reduction in interference energy is thus 200 times i.e. 23 dB.

When receiving the spread energy signal the concentrated energy signal can have a very high interference level but this will be concentrated preferably both in time and frequency. It is thus possible to remove this high interference by filtering using for example a notch filter. This will again remove a potentially very high interference level thereby significantly reducing the dynamic range requirements of the receiver. The filtering of the unwanted narrowband interferer will also remove a part of the wanted signal. However, as the filtering is concentrated to a narrow bandwidth and a short timeslot, this effect will be acceptable in most situations. The interferer will be constrained to a short time interval and extending the interleaving and FEC coding beyond this time interval will significantly reduce the amount of bit errors caused by the interferer. If the energy concentrated signal is a TDMA signal the interleaving and coding will preferably extend over an entire frame length

In accordance with the invention the interference levels can be further reduced by spreading the spread energy signal unevenly in frequency depending on the interference to and from remote units using the shared spectrum for communicating in the other direction. This is illustrated in FIG. 5 where an evenly spread signal 501, an unevenly spread signal 503

and narrowband signals 505 are shown, the spread signals representing communication in one direction and the narrowband signals representing communication in the other direction. By concentrating the spread signal energy towards the spectrum not used by narrowband signals, the interference to and from these is reduced

As an example spreading codes used for current CDMA systems are optimised for a flat frequency response as this gives optimum performance for a pure CDMA system. However, in the proposed system there can be much higher interference in some frequency bands than in others and it is therefore preferred to use non-flat spreading codes which concentrate the CDMA signal energy towards frequencies with minimum interference. For example, if the narrowband interferers are allocated towards the higher frequencies, a spreading code concentrating energy towards lower frequencies can be used (ref. FIG. 5). Any other distribution is equally applicable to the current invention, for example allocating narrowband carriers periodically or towards the lower or middle part of the frequency bands in order to optimise the system for the given spectral shaping of the spread signal. The method can be used adaptively dependent on the number and level of narrowband interferers. The shaping of the spreading can either be obtained by changing the spreading code or by modifying the pulshape of the spreading signal. If the spreading is done using frequency hopping, the effect can be obtained simply by increasing the concentration of hops to frequency bands with less interference.

Another aspect of the invention concerns the reduction of interference between remote units in the described communication system by allocation of channels in the shared portion of the frequency spectrum to remote units geographically separated. An example of the principle of allocation is illustrated in FIG. 6 which shows one central station 601, a plurality of remote units 603 and three areas 605, 607 and 609 dividing the remote units into groups depending on their distance to the central station 601.

According to the invention calls can be set up using the dedicated portions of the frequency spectrum, and as desired calls can be allocated channels in the shared spectrum in such a way, that they use the shared spectrum for communication in one direction and the appropriate dedicated

spectrum for communication in the other direction. The principle of allocation of the shared spectrum is that it is used in one direction by the remote units closest to the central station and in the reverse direction by the remote units furthest from the central station. With reference to the figure, remote units 603 in area 605 will thus be allocated for example downlink channels in the shared spectrum and uplink channels in the dedicated uplink frequency spectrum whereas the remote units in area 609 will be allocated uplink channels in the shared spectrum and downlink channels in the dedicated spectrum. The basic principle is thus to allocate channels so that remote units uplinking in the shared spectrum are kept as far as possible from the remote units downlinking. This maximises the minimum coupling loss between remote units sharing spectrum and thereby minimises interference.

FIG. 7 is an illustration of a process flowchart 700 of a preferred embodiment of this method. The method is preferably implemented in the controller of the central station 601 but may be implemented in the remote units 603 or distributed throughout the system.

The process starts in step 701 where the distance between the central station 601 and the remote unit 603 is estimated. The further the remote unit 603 is from the central station 601 the higher the propagation loss and the preferred method of estimating the distance is therefore from measurement of the received signal strength and knowledge of the transmitted power level, or simply from knowledge of the transmitted power level for a given transmission quality. However, other alternatives include measurement of transmission delay, such as timing advance for GSM systems, or using location information, such as information from Global Positioning System receivers included in the remote units as is envisaged for some future communication systems.

Step 703 follows from step 701 and consists in allocating radio channels in the shared portion of the frequency spectrum to the furthest of the remote units 603. The allocation is such that the remote units 603 are allocated channels in one direction in the appropriate non-shared spectrum and channels in the second direction in the shared spectrum.

Step 705 which follows from step 701 and may be independent of step 703 allocates channels to the closest remote units 603. The allocation is reciprocal to the allocation of channels to the furthest remote units in step 5 703. The remote units are thus allocated channels in the appropriate non-shared spectrum for communication in the direction in which the furthest remote units 603 use the shared spectrum. The closest remote units 603 are furthermore allocated channels in the reverse direction in the shared frequency spectrum but utilising a different transmission scheme in 10 accordance with the invention.

The invention thus provides a communication system or method of communication based on using different transmission schemes in the uplink and downlink direction. The use of two different transmission 15 schemes allows for the uplink and downlink signals to have a large disparity and this enables the cross interference between these signals to be minimised. As a consequence the sharing of a portion of frequency spectrum for simultaneously communicating in both directions is substantially facilitated.

Claims

1. A communication system including a first central station, a
5 plurality of remote units, and a frequency spectrum for providing
communication services to the plurality of remote units, the
communication system comprising:
 means for transmitting between the first central station and a first
remote unit in a first portion of the frequency spectrum in a first direction
10 using a first transmission scheme; and
 means for transmitting simultaneously between the first central
station and a second remote unit in the first portion of the frequency
spectrum in a second direction using a second transmission scheme.
- 15 2. A communication system as claimed in Claim 1 characterised by
said first transmission scheme using spread energy signals and said
second transmission scheme using concentrated energy signals.
3. A communication system as claimed in Claim 1 characterised by
20 said first transmission scheme using a substantially time continuous
signal with low power variation, and said second transmission scheme
using a time discontinuous signal with high peak power during
transmission bursts.
- 25 4. A communication system as claimed in Claim 1 which uses a Time
Division Multiple Access (TDMA) scheme in said first direction and Code
Division Multiple Access (CDMA) in said second direction.
5. A communication system as claimed in Claim 1 which uses a
30 Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiple Access (OFDMA) scheme in said
first direction and Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) in said second
direction.
6. A communication system as claimed in Claim 1 where a second
35 portion of said frequency spectrum is dedicated to communication in said

first direction and a third portion of said frequency spectrum is dedicated to communication in said second direction.

7. A communication system as claimed in Claim 6 where call
5 initialisation is performed using said second and third portion of the frequency spectrum.

8. A communication system as claimed in claim 6 further including a
10 controller
for allocating users comprising:

a) means for estimating a distance from said first central station to said plurality of remote units;

b) means for allocating channels to the furthest of said plurality of remote units in said first portion of the frequency spectrum for
15 communicating in said first direction and in said third portion of the frequency spectrum for communicating in said second direction; and

c) means for allocating channels to the closest of said plurality of remote units in said first portion of the frequency spectrum for communication in said second direction and in said second portion of said
20 frequency spectrum for communicating in said first direction.

9. A communication system as claimed in Claim 1 characterised by said first transmission scheme using broadband signals with low spectral energy density and
25 said second transmission scheme using narrowband signals with high spectral energy density.

10. A communication system as claimed in Claim 9, and further characterised by said broadband signals being unevenly spread signals.
30

11. A communication system as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said broadband signals are spread spectrum signals and different spreading sequences with different spectral properties are used.

12. A communication system as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said broadband signals are spread spectrum signals and different spreading symbols with different spectral properties are used.
- 5 13. A communication system as claimed in Claim 9 and further comprising means for selectively removing said narrowband signals when receiving said broadband signals.
- 10 14. A communication system as claimed in Claim 13 wherein said means for selectively removing said narrowband signals are characterised by using filter techniques.
- 15 15. A method for communication in a communication system including a first central station, a plurality of remote units, and a frequency spectrum for providing communication services to the plurality of remote units, the method comprising the steps of:
- 20 transmitting between the first central station and a first remote unit in a first portion of the frequency spectrum in a first direction using a first transmission scheme; and
- transmitting simultaneously between the first central station and a second remote unit in the first portion of the frequency spectrum in a second direction using a second transmission scheme.
- 25 16. A method for communication as claimed in Claim 15 characterised by said first transmission scheme using spread energy signals and said second transmission scheme using concentrated energy signals.
- 30 17. A method for communication as claimed in Claim 15 characterised by said first transmission scheme using a substantially time continuous signal with low power variation, and said second transmission scheme using a time discontinuous signal with high peak power during transmission bursts.
- 35 18. A method for communication as claimed in Claim 15 where a Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) scheme is used in said first direction

and a Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) scheme is used in said second direction.

19. A method for communication as claimed in Claim 15 where a
5 Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiple Access (OFDMA) scheme is used
in said first direction and a Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA)
scheme is used in said second direction.

20. A method for communication as claimed in Claim 15 wherein a
10 second portion of said frequency spectrum is dedicated to communication
in said first direction and a third portion of said frequency spectrum is
dedicated to communication in said second direction.

21. A method for communication as claimed in Claim 20 where call
15 initialisation is performed using said second and third portion of the
frequency spectrum.

22. A method for communication as claimed in claim 20 further
including a method for allocating users comprising the steps of:
20 a) estimating a distance from said first central station to said
plurality of remote units; and
b) allocating channels to the furthest of said plurality of remote units
in said first portion of the frequency spectrum for communicating in said
first direction and in said third portion of the frequency spectrum for
25 communicating in said second direction; and
c) allocating channels to the closest of said plurality of remote units
in said first portion of the frequency spectrum for communication in said
second direction and in said second portion of said frequency spectrum for
communicating in said first direction.

30 23. A method for communication as claimed in Claim 15 characterised
by said first transmission scheme using broadband signals with low
spectral energy density and
said second transmission scheme using narrowband signals with high
35 spectral energy density.

24. A method for communication as claimed in Claim 23, and further characterised by said broadband signals being unevenly spread signals.

25. A method for communication as claimed in Claim 24, wherein said
5 broadband signals are spread spectrum signals and different spreading sequences with different spectral properties are used.

26. A method for communication as claimed in Claim 24, wherein said
10 broadband signals are spread spectrum signals and different spreading symbols with different spectral properties are used.

27. A method for communication as claimed in Claim 23 and further comprising
means for selectively removing said narrowband signals when receiving
15 said broadband signals.

28. A method for communication as claimed in Claim 27 wherein said
means for selectively removing said narrowband signals are characterised
by using filter techniques.
20



Application No: GB 9722511.4
Claims searched: all

Examiner: Nigel Hall
Date of search: 11 February 1998

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:
UK CI (Ed.P): H4L (LDLS, LDLX); H4P (PF); H4M (MD, ME)
Int CI (Ed.6): H04B 7/26; H04J 4/00; H04L 5/26; H04Q 7/20, 7/22
Other: Online: WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	US 4967407 (LYNK)	

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.